



Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development

Healthcare Workforce Development Division

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**California
National Health Service Corps/State Loan Repayment Program
Fact Sheet**

Program Description

The National Health Service Corps (NHSC)/State Loan Repayment Program (SLRP) assists with the repayment of educational loans for primary healthcare professionals who provide healthcare services in federally designated health professional shortage areas (HPSAs) in California.

The program is funded through a grant from the Bureau of Health Professions, National Health Service Corps and is administered by the State of California, Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development (Office).

Health Professionals

Eligible health disciplines include: Physicians (MD/DO) specializing in family practice, general internal medicine, general pediatrics, obstetrics/gynecology, and general psychiatry; physician assistants; nurse practitioners; certified nurse mid-wives; general practice dentists (DDS/DMD); dental hygienists; clinical or counseling psychologists; clinical social workers, licensed professional counselors; psychiatric nurse specialists; and marriage and family therapists.

Applicants must meet the following requirements:

- Be U.S. citizen with a valid, unrestricted healthcare license or certificate for the State of California;
- Have no other existing service commitment;
- Be free of judgments arising from Federal debt;
- Be current on all child support payments;
- Be currently employed or have accepted employment at a California State Loan Repayment Certified Eligible Site;
- Commit to providing full-time (40 hours per week) primary care service in a California HPSA for a minimum of 2 years. Full-time is defined as follows:

Obstetricians/Gynecologists and Certified Nurse-Midwives: Full time is defined as a minimum of 21 hours at site providing direct patient care, with the remaining hours providing inpatient care to patients of the approved site, and/or in practice-related activities. Other practice-related activities (e.g., precepting, meetings, CME, etc.) cannot exceed 8 hours per week. The time spent "on-call" cannot be counted toward the 40 hour week;

All others: Full-time is defined as a minimum of 40 hours per week; 32 hours at site providing direct patient care and up to 8 hours in practice-related activities (e.g., chart review, meetings, precepting, CME, etc.). The time spent "on-call" cannot be counted toward the 40-hour week.

Health professionals participating in SLRP must practice in public or private not-for-profit settings approved by the Office, therefore, cannot establish private practices.

The application period is August 1 through October 1 annually. Visit the website often for new or changing information. Interested health providers can download the Primary Care Health Professional Application from the website.

Certified Eligible Sites

The State Loan Repayment Program has Certified Eligible Sites in 43 counties. They include county facilities, rural health clinics, community health clinics, federally qualified health centers, and cover the urban, rural and frontier areas of California.

Practice sites must meet the following requirements:

- Be a public or private non-profit;
- Be located in a California HPSA;
- Be on the SLRP Certified Eligible Site List;
- Be willing to match the State loan repayment award, on a dollar-for-dollar basis, in addition to salary; agree to pay the match with non-federal funds, and agree to make the loan repayments directly to the providers lending institutions;
- Commit to two-year employment;
- Pay prevailing wages;
- Be willing to enter into a memorandum of understanding with the Office.

Interested sites can download the Certified Eligible Site Application from the website.

Loan Repayment Award Amounts

Health professionals may be granted up to the following amounts and payments are made directly to their lender(s):

| | State Award | Site Match | Total |
|-----------------|---------------|------------|-----------|
| First Two Years | \$25,000 | \$25,000 | \$ 50,000 |
| Third Year | \$17,500 | \$17,500 | \$ 35,000 |
| Fourth Year | \$17,500 | \$17,500 | \$ 35,000 |
| | Maximum Award | | \$120,000 |

The American Job Creation Act exempts any loan repayment funds disbursed on or after January 1, 2004 from gross income and employment taxes.

Program Contact

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